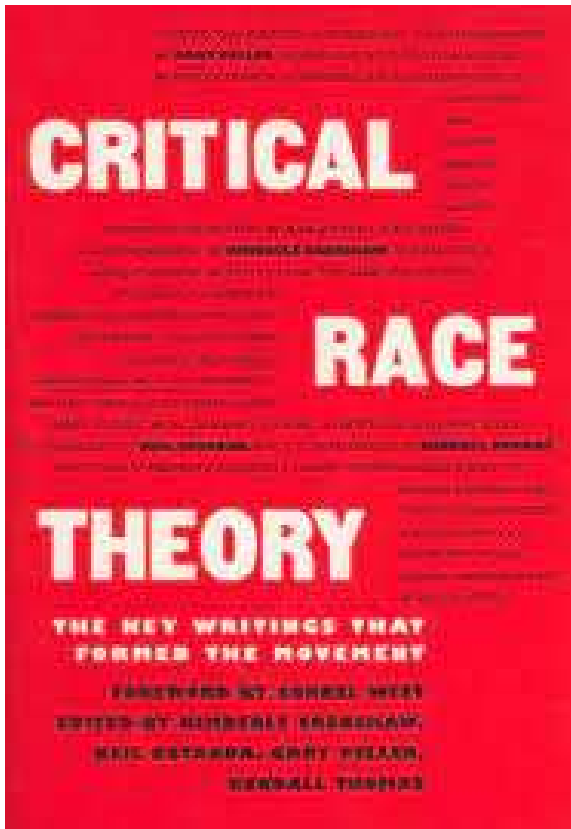


Chapter 3: Critical Race Theory Part II



Critical Race Theory: Origins

- Origin in Legal Studies in the late 1970s.
 - **Derrick Bell** & **Kimberlee Crenshaw**.
- Dissatisfaction with Civil Rights Values



“The aspect of our work which most markedly distinguishes it from conventional liberal and conservative legal scholarship about race and inequality is a deep dissatisfaction with traditional civil rights discourse.”
(Crenshaw, Gotanda, Peller, & Thomas, 1996, p. xiv).

What CRT stands against...

- Rejects values adopted from civil rights movement:
 - ~~Color blindness~~
 - ~~Integration~~
 - ~~Meritocracy~~
 - ~~Equality/equal opportunity~~
 - ~~Rationalism (reason as chief source of knowledge)~~

- ~~Martin Luther King's plea that we, in America, judge one another not by the color of our skin, but by the content of our character.~~

Four Principles of CRT

- A. Knowledge Principle: What is Truth? (Cultural constructivism) ✓
- B. **Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption**
- C. Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility
- D. Moral Principle 3: The Moral Imperative of Activism

Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption

- The Cardinal Sin: **Systemic Power and Oppression by Race**
- Dismantling Racism Works (dRworks), a community of activists and CRT scholars:

Racism is when the power elite of one group, the white group, has the power to carry out systematic discrimination through the institutional policies and practices of the society while shaping the cultural beliefs and values that support those racist policies and practices. <https://www.dismantlingracism.org/racism-defined.html>

Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption

- **Racism is a societal problem.**

- Racism is baked into the fabric of American culture. All our institutions and thought processes are fundamentally and irreparably racist.

- **What to do about it?**

- Our society cannot be reformed; it requires revolutionary change (dismantling, rebuilding).

- NOTE: This understanding of racism is a “counter-hegemony” designed to convince people that America is inherently and irreparably “broken” b/c it was founded on ideals of racism.

Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption

- **Racism is a **White** Problem**
- Racism: A foundational value/ideal of America and other White, Western cultures. **Racism = Whiteness/White supremacy.**
 - **Infects** all Whites; fundamental to one's identity as White.
 - **Victimizes** all members of minority groups in society.

Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption

- **Infects** all Whites: Sinners by Social Identity
- All Whites view world through racist hegemonic lens of White Supremacy.
- All Whites benefit from a “rigged” system at the expense of nonwhites.
- Your racism can be **compounded** by your overt actions or your inaction (“silence is violence”).
- **What to do about it?** As individuals, Whites can be redeemed by **divesting** from their whiteness (becoming “woke”).

Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption

- **Victim by Social Identity:** All nonwhites are **victimized** by racism.
- **What to do about it?** Political Solutions.
 - **Rejection of meritocracy**, including capitalism, as it is inherently racist (Kendi, 2020).
 - **Equity:** Race-based redistribution of wealth & power (regardless of merit, production or need).
 - **Racial discrimination** in the name of equity (e.g., recent covid testing by race).
 - Amend to the U.S. Constitution to establish the **Department of Anti-racism** (DOA).

Moral Principle 1: Two Secondary Sins

1. Sin of Denying Personal Autonomy

- To judge one's **construction of reality** (e.g., a man identifying as a woman) or one's **lifestyle** (e.g., homosexuality) according to a claim of **absolute truth** (e.g., there are only two sexes, Homosexuality is morally wrong according to the Bible).

2. **Sin of Challenging the Moral Revolution** (e.g., to criticize BLM, to criticize same-sex marriage and gender-neutral locker rooms)

- **Punishment**: Branded a civil rights violator and "cancelled."

HAPPENING NOW

Michael Smerconish tackles the week's biggest news. [Watch CNN](#)

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By Gabrielle Sorto, CNN

Updated 11:32 AM EDT, Wed October 2, 2019



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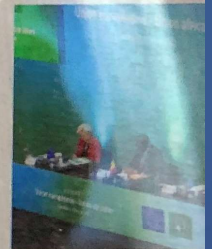
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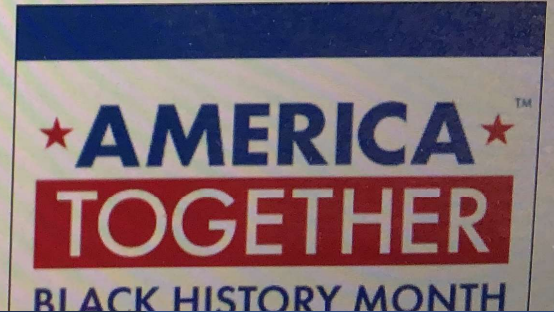
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PENNSYLVANIA · Published December 8, 2020 3:52pm EST

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He reportedly deleted a screenshot of the post on the school's Twitter account

By Louis Casiano | Fox News





US PROTESTS · Published July 2, 2020 2:25pm EDT

Dean fired after saying 'BLACK LIVES MATTER, but also, EVERYONE'S LIFE MATTERS' in email

Leslie Neal-Boylan sent an email to the nursing school community addressing the ongoing social justice protests



By Vandana Rambaran | Fox News



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Moral Principle 1: Compatible with Christianity?

- CT/CRT defines sin in a way that is **incompatible** with the biblical definition. One is a sinner, not because of his or her actions, but by virtue of being **White or benefitting from a system of white supremacy**.
- Redemption comes through political intervention and by individual sinners surrendering power.
- **Neither this definition of sin nor the path to redemption is compatible with biblical Christianity.**

Moral Principle 1: Compatible with Christianity?

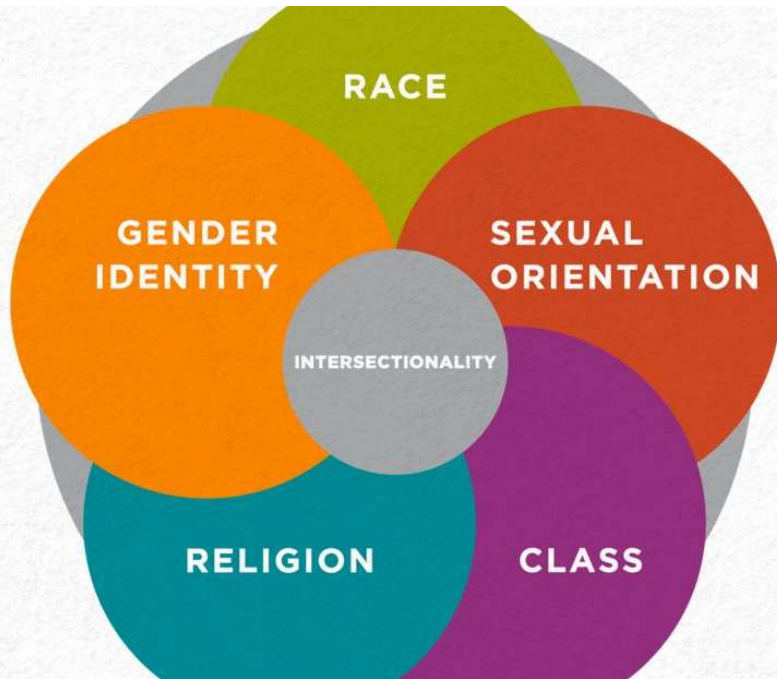
- **Secondary Sins.** According to biblical Christianity, what makes something sinful is that it violates God's law.
- CT's secondary sin of denying personal autonomy: The sin is to reference God's law as a standard for judging an actions.
- Not biblical.

Four Principles of CRT

- A. Knowledge Principle: What is Truth? (Cultural constructivism) ✓
- B. Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption ✓
- C. **Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility**
- D. Moral Principle 3: The Moral Imperative of Activism

Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility

Intersectionality (Kimberlee Crenshaw, 1989)



**Mapping the Margins:
Intersectionality,
Identity Politics, and
Violence against
Women of Color**

Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility

- **Intersectionality** (Kimberlee Crenshaw, 1989)
- **Moral Authority derived from social identity**
 - Critical theorists use the idea of **intersectionality** to rank order the degree to which a person is oppressed. More oppressed groups you belong to, the more **moral authority** and insight you have.
 - **A queer woman of color would have unique insights about social injustice that the Black man could not see and thus more authority to speak on the issue.**

Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility

- **Moral Responsibility derived from social identity**
 - The more oppressed someone is, according to an intersectionality matrix, the **less moral responsibility** they have for their actions.
 - Woke activists claim that White people have no moral authority to speak on issues related to racism, but they are responsible for fixing the institutions and systems that perpetuate it.

Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility

- **Stop and Think for a Second**
- Combine this view of moral responsibility and Marcuse's concept of *liberating tolerance*. We can understand:
 - Progressive media reaction to rioters in Kenosha versus Kyle Rittenhouse in 2020.
 - Kamala encouraged donations to the Minnesota Freedom Fund (MFF) to post bail for in Minneapolis in 2020.

Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility

- **Racism explains everything.**
- ALL unfavorable outcomes by race (e.g., infant mortality rates, performance on standardized tests, performance in school, incarceration rates, etc.) are caused ***entirely*** by racial oppression of people of color by Whites (Kendi, 2020).

Moral Principle 2: Compatible with Christianity

- **Moral asymmetry is not biblical.**
- Christianity: The meaning of sin is universal, applied to all people not just those who belong to dominant groups in a society.
- Further, moral **authority** is **rooted** in God's word and moral **responsibility** is **revealed** in God's word; neither is derived from one's membership in a social group.

Four Principles of CRT

- A. Knowledge Principle: What is Truth? (Cultural constructivism) ✓
- B. Moral Principle 1: Sin and Redemption ✓
- C. Moral Principle 2: Asymmetry of Moral Authority and Moral Responsibility ✓
- D. **Moral Principle 3: The Moral Imperative of Activism**

Moral Principle 3: The Moral Imperative of Activism

- Oppressive, hegemonic power structures inherently exclude “minoritized groups” and silence their “voices.” Society has a moral imperative then to **deconstruct**, challenge, “problematize”, resist and oppose all ways of thinking that support systems of power and the language that perpetuates them.
- The moral imperative to liberate oppressed groups trumps every other moral concern. Antifa and BLM justify violence and the destruction of buildings and businesses in our cities on the grounds of a greater moral good: liberating people from oppression.

Moral Principle 3: Compatible with Christianity?

- CRT theorists/activists have manufactured a moral imperative to dismantle institutions and traditional ways of thinking, and to reconstruct each according to an expressly atheistic, Marxist vision of a utopian, socialist society.
- The moral imperative is based on counter-hegemonies (lies) that vilify America and a Christian worldview as inherently oppressive/racist. Not biblical.

Bottom Line: CT/CRT is not Compatible with Christianity

- The Critical Theory activists are trying to launch a revolution to redefine the values and beliefs about morality (right and wrong) that will define public life in our country.
- They want to redefine (not refine) our collective idea of what is sinful and sacred in our society.

Homework: Videos to watch for next week

- James Lindsay on Critical Race Theory: How Worried Should You Be?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uf-HoXnL8E>
- Should Christians Support Black Lives Matter?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0INWwv3I7eI>
- Christianity and CT: Are they Compatible?/Neil Shenvi
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFJ4VifIDRk>

By What Standard? God's World...God's Rules



BY WHAT STANDARD?
GOD'S WORLD...GOD'S RULES